

the occurrence of the species in the Perth and neighbouring districts during the autumn of this year (1949): Yanehep, Miss S. Elliott saw a male on May 10; Mr. A. Gardiner saw a male on June 5. Lesmurdie, Miss M. V. B. Green saw a male on May 10; it was still present a few days later. Biekley, Mr. W. H. Loaring saw a female on April 28 and 29. North Dandalup, Mr. T. M. Smith saw a pair, male and female, on June 16, 1½ miles west of the railway line. West Coolup, Mr. Smith saw a male bird on his farm on May 26, June 2 and June 3. Coolup, Mr. A. H. Robinson saw a female on June 11.

Messrs. Smith and Robinson had never previously observed the species in their districts. Mr. Robinson writes: "I saw the bird (a female) being chased by a female Scarlet Robin (*Petroeca multicolor*). Later again in the same locality I saw a similar occurrence with probably the same birds. The male Scarlet Robin showed no aggressive behaviour; he left the driving out of the stranger entirely to his mate."

—EDITOR.

**Occurrence of King River Perchlet in the Margaret River.**—During April 1948 I visited the Margaret River, near Rosa Brook, in order to obtain specimens of the Pigmy Perch (*Nannoperca vittata*) for my small aquarium. Here there are very deep, long pools of fresh water with shallower sections in between. It was in these shallow, weedy pools that I searched. I used a small net made of fly wire and was successful in obtaining the specimens I needed. I noticed that one of the fish was different from the others, having a more slender body and eyes larger in proportion.

The fish were placed in the aquarium and I consulted the *Western Australian Naturalist*, vol. 1, no. 3, to identify the strange fish. I considered it to be *Nannatherina balstoni*, the King River Perchlet, and this was later confirmed by Mr. Bruce Shipway. This fish kept apart from the specimens of Pigmy Perch, usually swimming within a few inches of the surface and seldom went to the bottom of the aquarium. I was using chopped-up earth-worms to feed the fish, but the *Nannatherina* did not eat for several days; then it would dash in for its share among the others.

This fish had been in the aquarium about three weeks when one night I inadvertently left the cover off. In the morning I found it had jumped out on to the table and was dead. I placed it in preservative and later gave the specimen to Mr. Bruce Shipway. Several attempts to obtain further specimens in the Margaret River have failed.

—H. O. WEBSTER, Waterloo.

**Wire Nests of Magpies.**—The Western Magpie (*Gymnorhina dorsalis*) is reported, from time to time, building nests entirely from pieces of wire. In the *Gould League Notes*, 1949-50, p. 25 Mr. C. S. Hamilton, of the Government School, Kellerberrin, describes such a nest from Lake Graec. It weighed 5 lb. and was made up of 238 separate pieces of wire ranging from 4½ inches to 4 feet 2 inches in length, and totalling 243 feet in length. A much larger nest from Caron was sent for exhibition at the Wild Life Show by